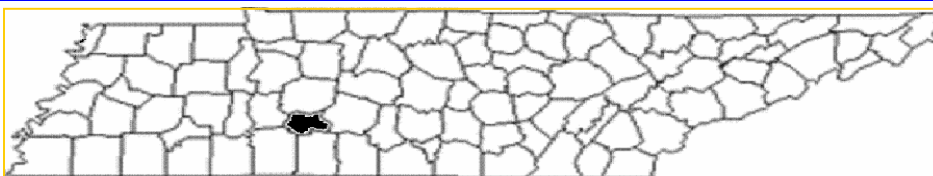


The Status of Women in Lewis County



STATUS OF WOMEN IN LEWIS COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

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INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	63.60	80
Women's Annual Earnings	\$19,847	76
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	73.3%	36
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	39.3%	72
Female Unemployment Rate	10.3%	94
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	27.6%	40
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	44.38	37
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	19.5%	56
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	12.1%	27
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	71.7%	32
Female High School Dropout Rate	13.4%	84
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	91.6%	50
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	15.4%	45
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	8.2%	33
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	29.9	28

Report Overview: This publication on the Status of Women in Lewis County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

LEWIS

Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of women in managerial or professional occupations.

- ◇ Lewis County ranks in the bottom half of counties three of the five employment and earnings indicators but Lewis ranks in the top half of counties in five of the eight economic autonomy indicators.
- ◇ Women in Lewis County earn, on average, \$8,000 less annually than their male counterparts.
- ◇ With a female unemployment rate of 10.3%, Lewis County exceeds only one other county. The female unemployment rate is significantly higher than that of the entire county (7.9%).
- ◇ Of all employed women 27.6% work in managerial or professional occupations in the county, and 20.9% of all working persons in the county are employed in such occupations.

Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ 28.3% of women in Lewis County do not have a high school diploma or equivalency while 30.5% of all county residents do not have a high school-level degree. 12.1% of women in the county have a four-year college degree while 8.5% of all county residents have at least a bachelor's degree.
- ◇ Though percentages of women high school and college graduates in the county are just under overall Tennessee averages for women, the female high school dropout rate in Lewis County almost doubles the overall Tennessee female dropout rate.
- ◇ Over 15 percent of female workers in the county earn wages below the poverty level.
- ◇ Though 10.3% of families are in poverty in the county, the percentage rises to 27.0% for families with female householders and no husband present.
- ◇ Women-owned businesses only account for 11.8% of the total sales and receipts of privately-owned firms in Lewis County though they represent 19.5% of all private firms in the county.
- ◇ 52.0% of all eligible voters in Lewis County are women. Just 3 out of 24 elected county officials are women.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

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		Lewis County	Rank of Lewis County	Highest Ranking County
Earnings	Median Annual Earnings for FT Females	\$19,847	76	Williamson: \$32,243
	Wage Gap	73.3%	36	Davidson: 82.1%
Employment	Female Labor Force Participa- tion Rate	39.3%	72	Rutherford: 50.9%
	Female Unemployment Rate	10.3%	94	Pickett: 1.5%
	Percent of Employed Females in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations	27.6%	40	Anderson: 44.6%
	Women Owned Business % of Total	19.5%	56	Moore: 63.3%
Education	% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better	12.1%	27	Williamson: 39.5%
	% of Females with High School Diploma (or equiva- lency)	71.7%	32	Williamson: 90.6%
	Female Dropout Rate	13.4%	84	Clay/Pickett: 0.0%
Lifestyles	% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Coverage	91.6%	50	Williamson: 100%
	% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	15.4%	45	Williamson: 5.4%
	% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	8.2%	33	Williamson: 2.5%
	Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	29.9	28	Williamson: 1.2%

ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Lewis County

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at www.tennesseewomen.org

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties